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COMPANY.	Date of coming into force of present sale.	Standard candle power.	Standard price per 1000 cubic feet.	Standard rate of dividend per cent per annum.	Addition to dividend allowed or reduction of dividend required for each 1d. reduction or increase in price.
Gas Light and Coke.	Jan. 1, 1899	16	3s. 9d.	4	1-10%
South Metropolitan	July 1, 1901	14	3s. 1d.	4	2-15%
Commercial	Jan. 1, 1903	14	3s. 3d.	3½	1-6%

Electricity Supply.—Electricity supply in the County of London is in the hands, partly of private companies, partly of local authorities (the metropolitan borough councils).

Water Supply.—Till within the last few months London and the surrounding districts were supplied with water by eight companies. In accordance with the provisions of the Metropolis Water Act, 1902, however, the administration of the water supply of London and the surrounding districts was transferred as from June 24, 1904, from the companies to a public body, known as the Metropolitan Water Board. The Board is an indirectly elected body, consisting of 66 members, appointed as follows:

	Members.
By the London City Council.....	14
By the City of London Corporation and the Metropolitan Borough Councils	31
By the Councils of counties adjoining London.....	5
By the Borough and District Councils outside London.....	14
By the Conservators of the Rivers Thames and Lea	2
	—
	66

The actual area supplied by the Board amounts to about 552 square miles, representing a population (1901) of about 6,180,000 (area of the County of London, 117 square miles; population (1901), 4,536,541).

RECENT AMENDMENTS TO ELECTION AND PRIMARY LAWS

By ROBERT H. WHITTEN, PH.D., STATE LIBRARY, ALBANY, N. Y.

As the legislatures of but thirteen states met in regular session last year the volume of legislation was comparatively small, and with the exception of the direct nominations laws in Wisconsin and Oregon the legislation enacted was quite unimportant.

Registration.—A Kentucky act ('04, ch. 6) provides that in cities in which registration is required the officers of registration shall issue a certificate of registration to each voter, which must be presented to the election officers before the elector is permitted to vote. Provision is made for issuing a duplicate certificate when the original has been lost or destroyed.

Election Day.—By constitutional amendment ('04, p. 207) Iowa has substituted biennial for annual state elections. Ohio ('04, p. 37 and p. 640) provides that all judicial and other public officials previously elected in April are hereafter to be elected in November, and a constitutional amendment will be submitted to the people in November, 1903, providing that elections of all state and county officers shall be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even years, and that elections of all other elective officers shall be held on the same day in odd years.

Voting.—Kentucky was the last state to abandon vive voce voting, the constitution of that state having prescribed that method of voting up to the adoption of the revision of 1891. The people of the state are evidently not entirely satisfied with the substitution of the secret vote for vive voce voting, as the legislature has submitted to the people in November, 1905, a constitutional amendment ('04, ch. 30) providing for a return to the old system.

Corrupt Practices.—South Carolina ('04, ch. 231) has made it unlawful to treat any voter to malt or intoxicating liquor within one mile of the polls at any primary or general election. Ohio, in an Act ('04, p. 107) prohibiting bribery at primary elections and nominating conventions, provides that in any prosecution brought under the Act, any person called upon to testify may not be excused from testifying on the ground that he will incriminate himself, but shall forever be exempt from any prosecution for the acts concerning which he has testified.

Direct Nominations.—The past year has witnessed the adoption by the people of general direct nomination laws in two states—Wisconsin and Oregon. The Wisconsin law was adopted by the legislature in 1903, but submitted to the people in November, 1904. The main provisions of this law were brought out in the March number of *THE ANNALS* of last year, in the article on "Political and Municipal Legislation." The Oregon act was proposed by initiative petition, submitted to the people, and adopted without recourse in any way to the legislature. The initiative petition was filed in the office of the Secretary of State, February 5, 1904, and the bill was submitted to the people at the regular election on June 6, 1904. It was adopted by a vote of 56,205 to 16,354. The act provides for direct nominations of all officers to be voted for (state, county, and municipal) with the exception of school elections and municipal offices in towns and cities of less than 2000 population. Provision is also made for the nomination of party candidates for the United States Senate and for the election of county committeemen. Primaries of all parties are held on the same day, at the same place, and in charge of the regular election officers. Official tickets are provided, there being a separate ticket for each party. Provision is made for party enrollment at the time of registration. The enrollment is public, and the form of oath prescribed contains the words "and that you are in good faith a member of the political party with which you are registered." The voter receives only the ballot of the party with which he is registered. A party committeeman is elected for each precinct, and the precinct committeemen make up the city and county central committees.